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Chairman: Mr. de Rojas ..... (Venezuela)

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97-83387 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Agenda item 95: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/52/L.2, L.2/Rev.1 and L.51)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.2, L.2/Rev.1 and L.51: Global Partnership for Development: High-Level International Intergovernmental Consideration on Financing for Development

1. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.51, said that it was the outcome of informal consultations on draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.2 and L.2/Rev.1. In the last line of the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "for development" should be deleted. He thanked all the delegations which had taken part in the consultations and had shown flexibility, particularly the representatives of the Philippines and the United States of America.

2. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.51, the Committee would reconvene for two days in 1998, for a total of four meetings with full conference services, including the provision of summary records. The requirements at full cost were estimated at $119,500 for conference services and $22,000 for support services. Whether it would be necessary to recruit temporary assistance could not yet be determined. However, provision was made under sections 27D (Support services) and 27E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 to cover the costs both of meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation and of meetings authorized subsequently. The conference-servicing costs of the ad hoc open-ended working group would be met from the overall allocation of resources for the fifty-third session of the General Assembly. The adoption of the draft resolution would thus have no financial implications for the 1998-1999 programme budget.

3. **Ms. Chaves** (Costa Rica) said that the Spanish version of the draft resolution contained numerous errors and that words had even been added to it. She therefore requested the Secretariat to issue a revised Spanish version to rectify the situation.

4. **Mr. Meyer** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that there was a typographical error in the English version: in the first line of paragraph 6, the word "and" should read "an". The French version of the title and of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution should also be revised.

5. **Mr. Rahmtalla** (Sudan), associating himself with the comments made by the representatives of Costa Rica and Luxembourg, said that if changes were made to some language versions, the Arabic version should also be revised.

6. **Mr. A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic) drew attention to a mistake in paragraph 7 of the Arabic version, which referred to the convening of several forums when, as far as he was aware, it was only a question of convening one forum.

7. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution would be reissued in all the languages and asked delegations, particularly those which had taken part in the draft consultations on the draft resolution, to transmit their comments so that they would be reflected in the final version.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.51, as orally revised, was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Harma** (India) said that financing for development was a crucial issue for developing countries and that, in the changing international context, it was imperative to address that complex, multidimensional issue in a systematic, comprehensive and constructive manner. His delegation would participate actively in all stages of the preparatory process, above all to ensure that the required documentation from all actors was available so that informed decisions could be taken. The international community was afforded a valuable opportunity to define a genuine partnership and to cooperate constructively in carrying forward the process launched by the draft resolution.

10. *Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.2 and L.2/Rev.1 were withdrawn.*

(b) Trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/52/L.24/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.24/Rev.1: International trade and development

11. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.24/Rev.1, said that it was the outcome of informal consultations and that Mexico had become a sponsor. He drew attention to paragraph 36, which requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the

implementation of the resolution, and explained that the report requested of the Secretary-General was an oral report.

12. **Mr. Winnick** (United States of America), acknowledging the considerable importance of the issue addressed by the draft resolution, particularly the work of UNCTAD, and the tremendous progress made in the dialogue in forums close to UNCTAD and within UNCTAD itself since the Midrand Conference, said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

13. **Mr. Kisiri** (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed concern that minor editorial changes had been made to paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 15 of the text adopted in informal consultations.

14. **The Chairman** said that, in their concern to polish the language of draft texts, editors sometimes altered the meaning slightly. He therefore suggested that the Vice-Chairman responsible for introducing the draft resolution and the Secretariat should examine the wording of the draft resolution to make sure that the changes made did not affect the substance.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.26 and L.39: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

16. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.39, said that it was the outcome of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.26.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.39 was adopted.*

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.26 was withdrawn.*

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/52/L.3 and L.47)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.3 and L.47: Science and technology for development

19. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.47, drawn up after informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.3.

20. **Mr. Djabbary** (Iran) said that there were some typographical errors in the text of the draft resolution. In the sixth line of the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "including to address" should be replaced by "including UNCTAD, to address". Furthermore, in the sixth line of paragraph 2, after the word "support", the word "for" should be replaced by "to".

21. **Mr. Meyer** (Luxembourg) said that in paragraph 2, the phrase "with the support of the secretariat of UNCTAD" had been omitted, although it had been included in the text approved following informal consultations.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.47, as orally amended, was adopted.*

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.3 was withdrawn.*

24. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 95 (c).

Agenda item 97: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (*continued*) (A/C.2/52/L.12 and L.38)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.12 and L.38: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

25. **Mr. Glanzer** (Austria), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.38 resulting from informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.12. He said that, in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the French text, the words "*Conference des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le developpement*" should be replaced by "*CNUCED*".

26. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the provisions of paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) and (b) of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.38, said that the proposed programme budget for the 1998-1999 biennium, which was currently under consideration in the Fifth Committee, included the necessary resources to cover the cost of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and three expert level regional preparatory meetings in 1998-1999. Therefore no additional resources would be required to finance those activities. As to the requirements for the conference itself, a statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, as appropriate.

27. As to the question of including in the draft resolution an indication that the preparatory activities would be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the 1998-1999 biennium, the Controller had requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Committee the provisions of resolution 45/248, part B, section VI, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 regarding the procedures that applied in respect of administrative and budgetary matters, which she read out to the Committee.

28. **Mr. Winnick** (United States of America), referring to the statement made by the Secretary of the Committee on behalf of the Controller concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.38, said that it was also worth recalling rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which required that before taking action on a draft resolution, Committees must be informed of the financial and programme budget implications associated with it. It was essential for the Committee to obtain the information necessary to it to carry out its functions to the full and take a decision in an informed manner. Nothing the Committee had done had infringed in any way upon the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee. However, it was very important that the Committee should have available all the financial data which could be useful to it before taking action on the various draft resolutions under consideration.

29. **Mr. Zhu Guangyao** (China) said that there was a serious error in the Chinese text of the draft resolution: the expression "the least developed countries" had been translated as "the most advanced countries".

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.38, as orally amended, was adopted.*

31. **Mr. Winnick** (United States of America), explaining his delegation's position, said that the United States accorded high priority to the economic development of the least developed countries. Although it had consistently opposed the holding of new global conferences because of the great financial strain they placed on the United Nations budget, the United States recognized the broad consensus in support of a third review of the implementation and results of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s, and accepted that that review was an important continuation of the activities and work programme of UNCTAD. The United States regretted that the resolution did not address the question of modalities and funding for the Conference to be convened in the year 2001. It hoped that every effort would be made during the preparatory process to obtain extrabudgetary funding or to hold the conference as part of a scheduled United Nations meeting, such as the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, and otherwise minimize the administrative burden on the United Nations system of holding the Conference.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.12 was withdrawn.*

33. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had thus completed its consideration of agenda item 97 (b).

(f) First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.27/Rev.1: Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty

34. **Mr. Sorcar** (Bangladesh) said that Lesotho and Nepal had become sponsors of the draft resolution, and paragraph 11 should be replaced by the following text: "*Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-third session, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, and the World Bank, on the follow-up to the resolution 'First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty: role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty'".

35. *Draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.27/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.